



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

FY24 Proposed Budget Review

Kenneth Days, III, Director/Chief Public Defender

MAY 18th, 2023

Office of the Public Defender

VISION

To provide all our clients with client-centered, holistic, zealous legal representation. To promote equal justice, fairness, and respect for all people in the judicial system through excellent legal advocacy, respecting our client's humanity, and finding innovative holistic solutions to community safety.

MISSION

The mission of the Office of the Public Defender is to provide a zealous and holistic legal defense to persons charged with offenses before the Atlanta Municipal Court. Legal representation includes effective defense strategies, and holistic attention to restorative measures that can reduce contacts with the criminal justice system and improve the quality of life for the client.

Mayor Dickens Administration Pillars



“One city with one bright future.”

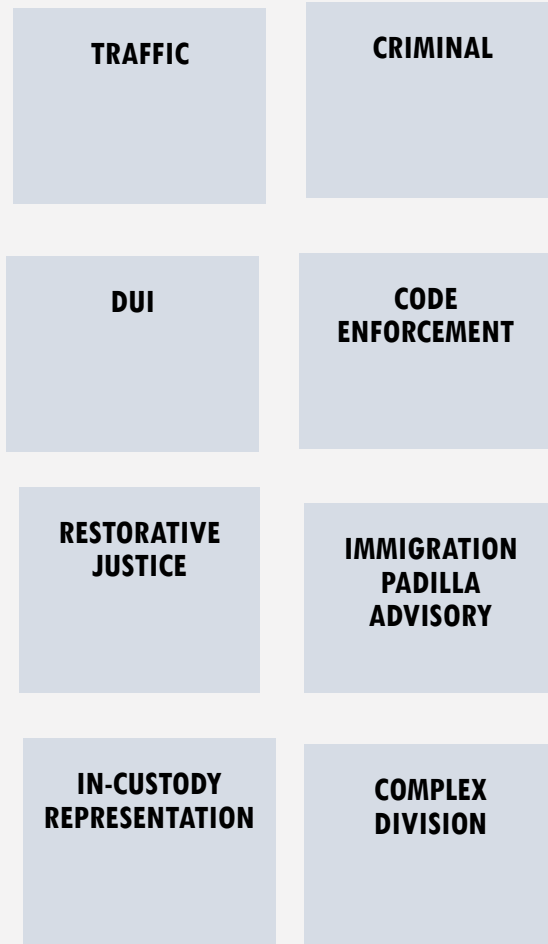
A city of safe, healthy, connected neighborhoods with an expansive culture of equity, empowering upward mobility and full participation for all residents, embracing youth development, and an innovative, dependable government moving Atlanta forward, together.”

FY24 Office of the Public Defender

Organizational Structure



DIVISIONS



FY23 Highlights

Office of the Public Defender



Community Outreach

- Legal Clinics
- Event Programming and Engagement
- *Know Your Rights* Presentations
- Job Placement (HEP)

Youth Outreach

- Nonprofit Organization Partnerships
- Youth Development Initiatives
- School and Neighborhood Beautification Projects

Housing Outreach

- Temporary and Supportive Housing Referrals
- Provide Meals and Social Service Referrals for Transitional Housing Tenants



FY23 Highlights

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



DUI DEFENSE

- 1000+ Active Cases
- 300 New Cases Appointed(Jan-April)
- ALS Hearings
- Treatment/Social Work Assessments

APPEALS

- 6 Favorable Decisions
- 21 Pending Appeals
 - Superior Court
- GA Court of Appeals

TRAFFIC

- 3000+ Cases
- Suspended License Reinstatement (DLRP)
- Document Assistance
- CDL Compliance

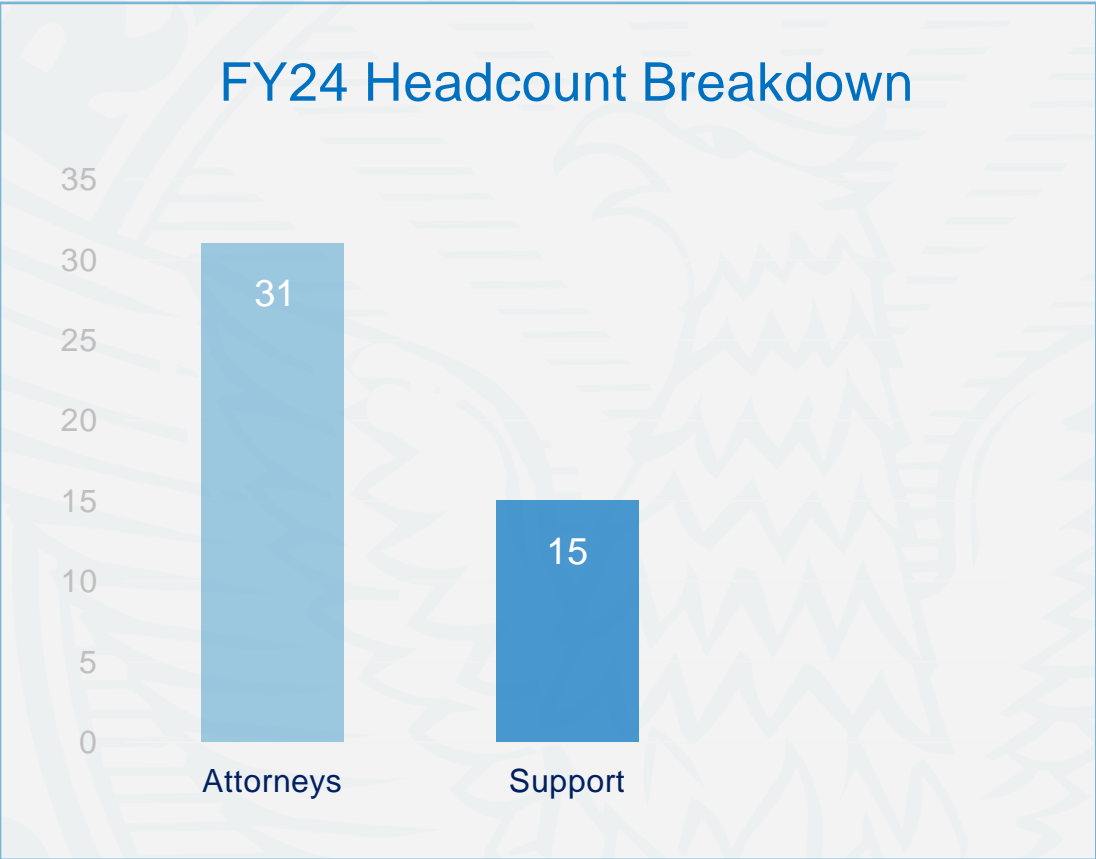
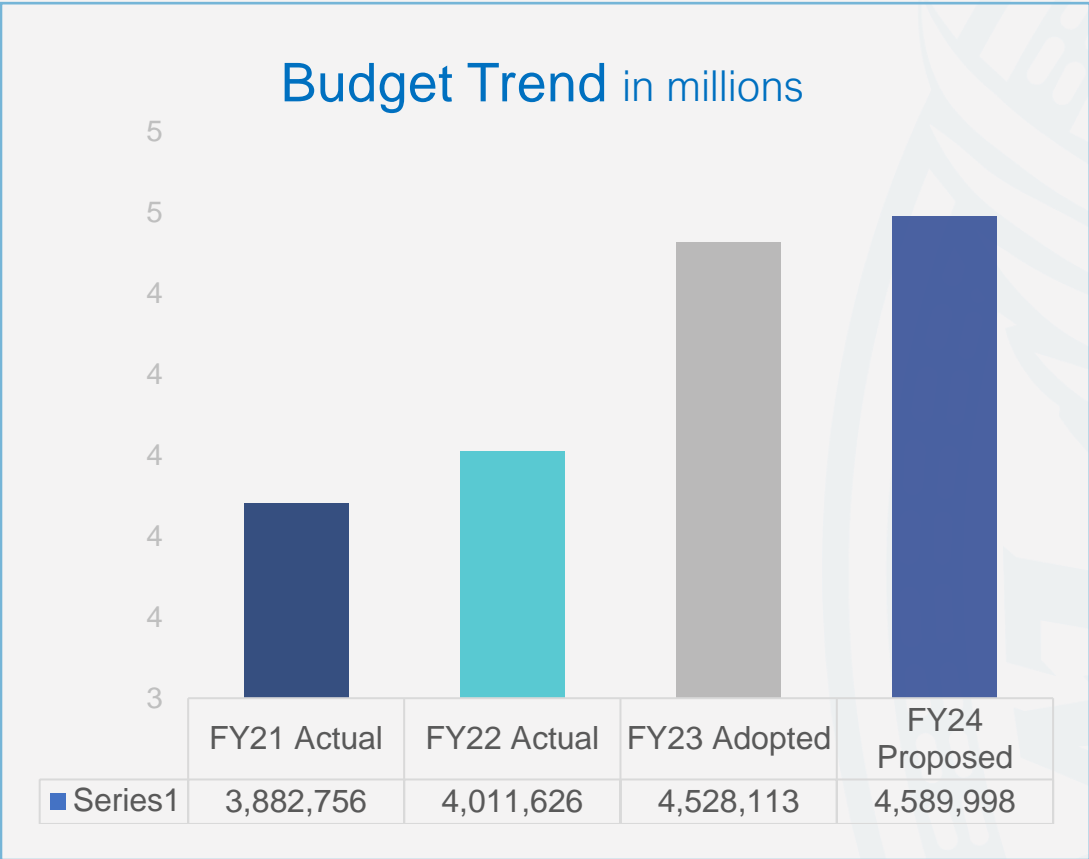
CRIMINAL/CITY ORDINANCE

- 2500+ Cases
- In-Custody Defense
- Mental Health Assessments



FY24 Total Operating Budget

Office of the Public Defender



FY23-FY24 Year over Year Budget Variance

FY23 Adopted vs FY24 Proposed Budget

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



Total Personnel



\$61,667

INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

FTE	FY 2023	FY 2024
Active / Filled FTEs	38	46
Vacant FTEs	8	0
Total FTE	46	46

KEY PERSONNEL DATA

FY23 average attrition rate of 20%. Department will need to fill critical positions in FY24.



Total Operating



\$248

INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

Key Drivers

- Increase in Court Fees

KEY OPERATIONAL DATA

Anticipated Increase in Technology Costs



FY24 Summary of Operations by Major Category

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER.

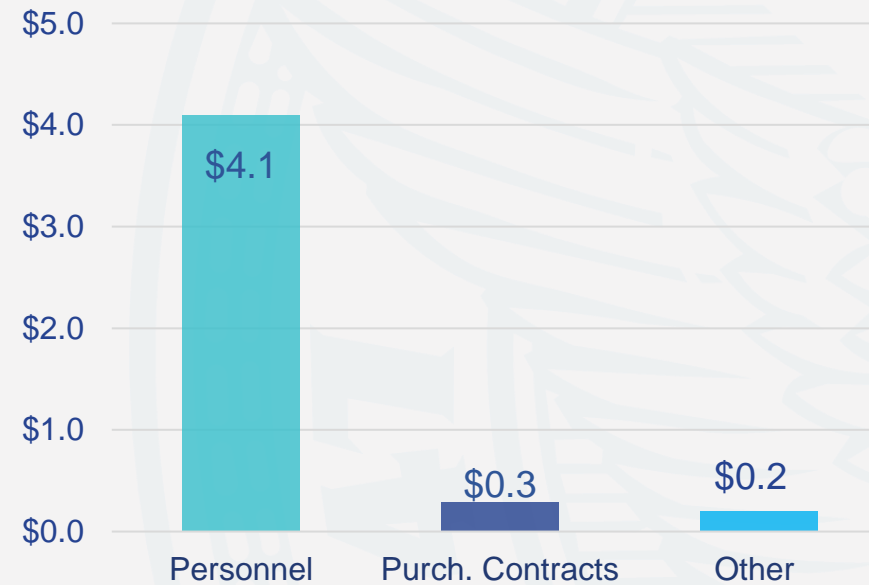


Operational Areas

- Client Advocacy
- Community Engagement
- Direct Legal Representation

FY24 Total Proposed Budget

in millions



FY24 Priorities

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Increase Attorney Staff
- Increase Support Staff

COMPETITIVE SALARY

- Provide Equitable and Competitive Market Salaries

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

- Evidence Review Management System
- Enhance Client Case Management System

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Promote Mayoral Priorities
- Emergency Social Services

GIDEON V WAINWRIGHT
372 U.S. 335 (1963)

Lawyers in a criminal case **are necessities, not luxuries**



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Reclaim Justice
www.reclaimjustice.org



Questions?

Thank You



Office of the Public Defender

- Advocacy
- Outreach
- Access